

John Adams
Library.



IN THE CUSTODY OF THE
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.



ADAMS
273.15

THE
CONDUCT
OF THE
GOVERNMENT
OF
FRANCE
TOWARDS THE
REPUBLIC
OF
GENEVA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

By A CITIZEN OF TRENTON.

Trenton : PRINTED BY G. CRAFT.

OCTOBER, 1798.

+ ADAMS 283.15

TO MR. GALLATIN,

A MEMBER of the HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES of the
UNITED STATES of AMERICA, for the STATE of
PENNSYLVANIA.

S I R,

TO whom could I, with more propriety, present a picture of the crimes of the French Directory towards the republic of Geneva, than to one of my countrymen, to a citizen of Geneva, who is now placed in a conspicuous station among the Representatives of the United States of America? Your success in your adopted country, assuredly has not extinguished your affection for that in which you first drew breath, for that where your talents received, in a liberal education, a developement to which you owe your elevation. The name of Geneva must awaken in you sentiments of gratitude and love; and the base persecutions she has undergone, cannot but excite your indignation.

I WAS particularly determined to address this little tract to you, upon reading the speech you delivered in Congress the 19th of April last. It seems, Sir, that you still entertain doubts as to the gradual but unvarying progress of the government of France in her usurpations.* You still regard as *matter of speculation*, her schemes of invasion, her unbridled ambition, the art with which she takes advantage of every circumstance to sow disunion and propagate her principles among the people she wishes to subjugate, and the plan, from which she has not for one moment departed, of reducing under her power, indiscriminately, her friends and her enemies; at first deceiving them by negotiations and treaties, and afterwards availing herself of the most frivolous pretexts to break them. She continually brings to mind this saying of Titus Livius:

Perfidis nunquam causa deficit cur pactis non stent.

Perfidious men never want a pretext for violating their engagements.

IN my state of ignorance of the true grounds of the dispute between the two parties in America, I shall take care not to pass a hasty and unadvised judgment upon them. But if you have supposed that you saw in the French the true friends of liberty; if you have taken the declarations of the Directory, for the

* "The Committee were told, that if we did not resist, France would go on, step by step, in her course of aggressions against this country. This is mere matter of speculation. It is possible France may go on in this way. Let us not, however, act on speculative grounds, but examine our present situation, and if better than war, let us keep it." Speech of Mr. Gallatin, in the House of Representatives, taken from the Philadelphia Daily Advertiser, of April 28th, 1798.

principles of their conduct ; if you imagine, that they are the protectors of weakness, and the defenders of the interests of mankind ; if you judge them by your wishes, and if you measure your hopes by their promises, read this pamphlet. See how they have just dissolved a small state, whose independence they had engaged by the most solemn treaties to respect. Follow them through the complication of those base transactions. Here there is no great political interest to dazzle the understanding. It is not a Cromwell who usurps a throne ; it is a forger who compels a feeble man, with a dagger at his throat, to make a conveyance of his property, and then boasts of the lawfulness of his title. I do not know, Sir, what direct consequence you will be able to draw from this recital, in relation to the French policy in America ; but you will at least see, that you must, in regard to France, count for nothing, either justice, or generosity, or the most sacred engagements ; and that in the use of her means, she is more audacious, more regardless of morality, and especially more fraudulent and more false, than all which has to the present time disgraced the most scandalous and iniquitous reigns of kings. Yes, when we turn from the political filth and turpitude of the French Directory, Machiavel appears a prodigy in virtue, and the cabinet of Philip II. becomes the sanctuary of good faith.

I CONFINE myself to facts alone : I say little of individuals ; I might perhaps mistake as to their character ; but I cannot be deceived as to their system. It is of no importance what is the character of such a Director or such a Minister ; they all are what circumstances make them. Such will men become when the government is disorganised and the laws overturned. Such will be this or that individual, who is now irreproachable, if he should be placed in that state of disorder which is fatal only to honesty, while it offers all favorable chances for the commission of crimes. Behold, Sir, what appears to me important to be known by a man, who, happily situated as you are, may exert his influence over a great nation, and preserve it from that subversion, where the leaders so rarely retain their integrity, and where the smallest loss they can sustain is often that of their fortunes and their lives.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most humble,

And most obedient Servant,

D. CHAUVET.

Kennington (near London) 22d of June, 1798.

T H E

C O N D U C T, &c.

THE small republic of Geneva is just swallowed up in the immense whirlpool of the French Republic. On a theatre still covered with blood, and after conquests which have changed the state of the greatest powers, this event appears too small a matter to command the attention of Europe. But though it may not be interesting from its greatness, it becomes so from other considerations. The less this republic appears important, the more the perseverance of the French Directory, in order to conquer it, must astonish us. we are often disposed to pardon political crimes, when they are committed for the attainment of a great object; but a succession of perfidious and crafty proceedings, a tissue of sworn alliances and violated oaths, in order to seize upon a small city without territory; a policy so wicked, pursued with such obstinacy, to accomplish an object so trifling, certainly merit the attention of all those who wish to be fully informed as to the true character and future designs of the French republic.

Nothing can be more striking than the contrast of the flourishing condition of Geneva under the kings of France, and its state of wretchedness and oppression under the French republic. Louis XIV. in all the pride of his despotism, was tender of the independence of this city, although she had dared to open an asylum for the French fugitives, after the revocation of the edict of Nantes: he would have feared to tarnish his glory by using his colossal power against the feeblest of his neighbors: the little republic had permission to exist to flourish by the side of the great monarchy, to enrich itself upon the losses of France, and receive subjects who were considered as rebels. It is well known to what a degree of prosperity this city had arrived by commerce, by learning, by liberty, by that love of country which the Genevans carried even to enthusiasm. She had gained to herself in Europe a name far superior to her extent and her resources. There was scarcely a single branch of literature and philosophy, in which she had not furnished some illustrious men.

AFTER the birth of the French republic, Geneva one would think, ought on all accounts to enjoy still greater security. So much apparent respect for the rights of man! so many protestations in favor of the independence of the people! such a predilection for popular governments! Was not all this a snare? Had ancient liberty any cause to tremble at the voice of these enthusiasts, who in the fervor of a new zeal, spoke only of setting all nations free? Nevertheless these pretended republicans could not bear the existence of a little republic; these pretended avengers of the crimes of kings have destroyed that independence, against which kings had not aimed a blow.

DETAILS now become necessary. To render them complete, we should be obliged to follow the French government through the labyrinth of its intrigues, of its perfidies; but I shall content myself with shewing, that it has never lost sight of the acquisition of Geneva, either by open conquest or a fraudulent union. If this scheme has ever for a moment been abandoned, it was soon revived. Of this the following facts furnish abundant proof.

AT the time of the invasion of Savoy by the French army, Geneva obtained a reinforcement of 1200 men from the Canton of Berne. This precaution, stipulated by treaties, and intended solely for purposes of defence, had been carried into effect in the preceding wars, and did not give the least umbrage. But the Committee of Public Safety had their secret views; the neutrality of Geneva embarrassed them; the possession of this city appeared of importance for two reasons; to obtain an influence over Switzerland, of which this city is the key on the side of the Alps, and to secure the new conquest of Savoy. When the Committee of Public Safety saw that the Genevans were determined to preserve a neutrality, they pretended to be offended at their calling in the Swiss, as an offensive precaution; they ordered General Montesquieu to commence the siege of the city. It was deemed necessary to deprive Geneva of her liberty, to prove that she had done wrong in meditating its defence.

GENERAL Montesquieu having entered into a negotiation with the Genevans, was ashamed to participate in such flagrant injustice. They gave him convincing proofs that he was only the instrument of the vengeance of a man who was then all-powerful in the party of the Gironde. He gave this information to the Committee of Public Safety; he represented to them that France ought not to begin her republican career, by the destruction of a republican ally whose conduct was irreproachable. At that period, considerations of this nature still had weight; they still felt the necessity of paying some deference to the public opinion. They permitted him to sign a treaty of peace with Geneva; but he was immediately sacrificed. Obligated to acknowledge the independence of Geneva, they revenged themselves on him who had

disappointed them of their prey, and added to it an act of perfidy, by refusing to ratify the treaty signed by their plenipotentiary; this too, after the Genevans had on their part fulfilled the conditions of it, and by sending back the 1200 Swiss, had rendered themselves incapable of continuing their resistance. They were obliged to dissemble their resentment; but from that time they were able to form a correct judgment as to the views of the French government.

ON abandoning open force, the French ministry had recourse to intrigue, in order to accomplish their object. They applied themselves industriously at Geneva, to form a party which would demand the union of the small republic to France. For this purpose but a few followers were necessary, whom they would have represented to all Europe as constituting the nation; whilst the great body of the citizens, accused of aristocracy, would have been denounced as the oppressors of liberty. Geneva was from that time preyed upon by a croud of emissaries and agitators, who continually succeeded one another. When their machinations became too public, and they were denounced to the French resident, he ordered the unskilful intriguers to withdraw; but others soon succeeded and pursued the same system with less noise.

THE principal agent of France, astonished at his want of success, resolved to destroy the government, and deliver up Geneva to a state of anarchy. The disorder inseparable from a revolution, would necessarily furnish opportunities favorable to his views. While the administration was in respectable hands, he could hope for nothing; but if he could throw it into the hands of a popular club, he would have a prospect of directing it. He privately inflames, by his promises, a very small body of democrats, who were styled *Levellers*; an insurrection takes place: the government could have repressed it with ease; but they knew that every thing was directed by France; that the troops at the gates of Geneva were ready to enter; they were fearful of bringing on a quarrel; they submitted rather than risk their independence. The councils were changed; the administration was given to the *Levellers*.

THE object of this insurrection still remained unaccomplished. The *Levellers*, become masters, were as zealous for Genevan independence as the other citizens. With all possible solemnity they took an oath to preserve it. General Kellerman, who was near the city with a detachment of his army, came into it under a pretence of congratulating it on this revolution; but he in fact flattered himself that his presence would encourage the partizans of France to demand the union. With this view he visited all the popular clubs: he and his officers lavished upon them the most seducing caresses; some of them, affecting a double intoxication of wine and of sentiment, made open attempts; whilst the General, always reserved, kept himself prepared for every

event. One of them imprudently said, that he did not ask the Genevans to unite with France, but he begged them to permit France to unite with them: you are old soldiers of liberty, said he. we want you to direct our infancy.* Kellerman was astonished. He did not find a single partizan; on the contrary, every body in Geneva talked to him of country and independence; this cry was incessantly sounded in his ears. He was doubtless unwilling to participate in transactions so odious as those they expected from him; and his report completely undeceived the French government.

THEY appeared to abandon the scheme of forcing the union of Geneva. Amidst the torrent of events which pressed upon them, they gave but a subordinate attention to this object. But Soulavie, an agent of France, who was at Geneva in 1794, in quality of Resident, a man known only by his crimes, a priest of infamous character, the author of some obscene performances, resumed the design of triumphing over the independence of Geneva and of acquiring new merit by the commission of crimes which had at least the glare of ambition. By means of some perverse men, he organized a new insurrection. Under pretence of an aristocratic plot, he set on foot two clubs known by their violence and audacity: they were composed of men, who having lost every habit of industry in the idleness of the revolution, waited only for an opportunity to plunder. The insurrection takes place at midnight; the government, weakened by divisions, remains inactive; eight hundred citizens are disarmed and dragged to the prisons; the others, intimidated, dare not think of defence, for fear of redoubling the fury of the clubs against those unfortunate hostages. A revolutionary tribunal begins a series of horrible judgments; confiscations accompany assassinations; and the republic is covered with blood and pollution.

IN the midst of these horrors, not one voice is heard for the union with France. Soulavie, disconcerted, endeavors to provoke the commission of crimes, as if for revenge because Geneva still eludes his enterprises.

THE fall of Robespierre, which happened soon after, and the change of system in France, put an end to the fury of the Jacobins at Geneva; the government resumed its usual course. Soulavie was denounced; his wicked attempts were clearly proved against him; he was recalled; he was even put in arrest; they feigned to institute a prosecution against him; but the object he had in view gave a favorable colouring to his crime; and they did not wish to discourage those who would pursue the same line of conduct. Soulavie went unpunished.

* At one of the most popular clubs, a man animated with republican enthusiasm, pressed him to drink from a cup he presented to him; *it will be sacred in your eyes, said he, when you know that it is a gift of J. J. Rousseau; you will not believe that men who drink out of this cup will ever betray their country and abandon its independence.*

ADET, who was sent to supply his place, at first inspired by his conduct some degree of confidence; whether he better knew how to dissimble his views, or whether circumstances were less favorable to him, he suffered the republic to take breath; it was even thought that France had abandoned her schemes against Geneva. Reybaz, the Genevan minister at Paris, a wise and able man, obtained a personal consideration which removed all difficulties from the concerns of the small, with the great republic. The National Assembly gave him a solemn audience. The Genevan flag was associated with the American flag. The Directory seemed to do themselves honor by all the distinctions which they granted to the weakest power in Europe. In raising it to an equality, they would appear to elevate themselves. They wished to have it believed that the republican character consecrated that small nation in their eyes, and that power itself could never overleap the circle traced by the hand of liberty and justice.

ALL this pageantry was intended only to deceive. They began to form schemes against Switzerland; but the time for their execution had not yet arrived; it was necessary to lull the Helvetic governments to sleep, that they might be found defenceless at the moment of attack. The first circumstance which alarmed the Genevans as to the intentions of the Directory, was an imperious requisition, addressed to the councils, to recal Reybaz, without alledging any complaint against him. What was his offence? He had learned, by certain information, that Lacroix, minister for foreign affairs, did not dissimble, that Geneva, sooner or later, must belong to France. Reybaz communicated to the government of Geneva what it would have been treasonable in him to conceal. By some indiscretion, the Resident of France at Geneva became acquainted with this letter of Reybaz; thence his disgrace with the Directory, and the order he soon after received to quit Paris.

FROM this moment Geneva had but an unquiet and precarious existence; her commerce was harrassed; her government fettered; her communication interrupted; her subsistence cut off. Batteries were erected on the two banks of the lake. They exacted extravagant duties on every thing going in or out of Geneva. Under a pretext of hindering a contraband trade with France, the Genevans were confined within their walls, and subjected to a thousand vexations. They could not stir from the city, they could not visit their country seats, without being furnished with passports; want threatened them on all sides. It is evident that by these hostile and injurious proceedings they hoped to render the people weary of their independence, and reduce them to look upon it as a misfortune. It is thus that a powerful man, who wishes to add to his domain, and oblige a feeble and poor neighbor to sell the ancient inheritance of his fathers, has recourse to a thousand odious measures, and by besieging him with troubles, perplexities and terrors, at length banishes him from his miserable abode.

THE Genevans presented to the Directory a forcible and affecting address, in which they gave a true picture of these vexations. This address remained unanswered, and the vexations were augmented. They flattered themselves that a deputation would have greater weight. The first magistrate of the republic was one of the deputies. *But when the Directory meditate an injury, they render themselves inaccessible to complaint.* Instead of the audience they had solicited, they learned that the order for their departure was signed. They had the prudence not to expose the republic to this affront; they returned in despair. The interdictions then became more severe; the city was blockaded; nobody was allowed to go in or out. A nurse who was carrying into Geneva, not provisions, but an infant to its father, wished to enter, notwithstanding the prohibition; a shot overtook her, she fell expiring. Every day brought with it disastrous scenes. They finally would not grant any more passports; they were particularly refused to the merchants, that misery might force the artist to demand the union. In the mean time military companies entered Geneva, and traversed the city without obstruction. All the French were received there, and continued there at perfect liberty; while in the French territory the Genevans were treated as enemies.

At length the invasion of Switzerland was now to be accomplished. The Directory were more impatient than ever to become masters of Geneva; but they disliked an open enterprize; it was convenient to them to save appearances; they however resolved to hasten their measures. Felix Desportes was the Resident of France at Geneva; deceitful, cunning, above all scruples, ready at making promises, capable of using any means, he had placed his personal glory in bringing about the destruction of the republic. He held several assemblies of citizens at his house: to the artist he promised new establishments for work, and provisions at a low price; to the merchants, that Geneva should become the centre of an extensive commerce, and that two millions should be advanced to them for their enterprizes; to the ministers of religion, whom he assured that France was recovered from her anti-religious mania, that means should be used for preserving public worship; to the men of letters, that France would be interested to employ them in the new seminaries of education. He gave the wealthy citizens to understand that they should be no longer subjected to despicable men, and to revolutions of which they were always the victims. -He represented to the revolutionizers, that they would have the entire confidence of the French government. He set before all classes a most flattering picture of their future lot, should the union be consented to; but if that were refused, they were to expect incalculable evils. They had only to choose for themselves between abundance, pleasures and security on one hand, and misery, distress and devastation on the other. On one day, he announced, that the troops had arrived in the neighborhood.

On the next, that General Brune had received his orders. He conjured the Genevans by his affection for them to prevent the misfortunes attending a conquest; he pitied them, he considered their situation, he wished to save them; but he was about to leave them and after his departure there would be no hope for them, the means of reconciliation would no longer exist.

His seducements and threats were ineffectual; all classes of the state held the same language to him *We will neither betray nor sell our country.* Such was the uniform answer of all the citizens. Even the members of the Revolutionary Club, enthusiastic in the cause of France, as soon as their independence was attacked, declared themselves its supporters. Lest misery should create partizans for the union, contributions to assist the unfortunate were multiplied. They confined themselves to the use of the most simple necessities, that no person should want them. Bonds of brotherhood united all the Genevans: the safety of their country was become the sole sentiment, the sole desire, the sole object of all.

THE Administrative Council, finding itself too weak at this difficult juncture, dared not continue solely charged with the responsibility of government. They proposed to the Sovereign Council, the formation of an Extraordinary Committee, to be composed of all the public officers; and that this committee should be vested, for a limited time, with a species of dictatorship. This committee, furnished with the most extensive powers, treated more directly with the resident of France, and represented to him all the past declarations, all the engagements entered into with Geneva, all the motives of justice, interest and honor, which ought to induce the French republic to be faithful to its promises.

AT this period they thought they saw a ray of hope: the proclamation of General Brune, dated the 10th of March, had just appeared: he there repelled, as an arrant calumny, the supposition of a *scheme for conquering any part of Switzerland.* The French Republic, said the General, does not wish to appropriate to itself any thing which belongs to the Helvetic confederacy. Besides this, they wrote from Paris, that this enterprize of the Directory was universally blamed; that its members were divided on this point; and that Geneva might yet be saved, if some incident did not give the French possession of it before the expiration of Merlin's presidency.

THIS apparent calm was soon disturbed by alarms of another kind. The Genevans were overwhelmed with consternation at the horrible crimes the French army committed in Switzerland: they forgot their own past calamities to weep over those to which their most intimate

friends and allies were delivered up : they wished to fly to their assistance, and share their dangers ; but they themselves were surrounded by French troops, and in a situation which imposed silence upon their wishes.

THE intrigues of the Resident soon brought them back to a view of their own situation ; they saw with trembling the catastrophe which approached them, and tried one last effort to make the Directory listen to their remonstrances ; but the Directory had resolved to shut their ears against all complaints. In a declaration, calculated to soften this haughty divan, an offer was made to submit to all the arrangements, to every wish of the French government, to make every sacrifice which could be exacted from them, *under the sole reserve of political independence*, under the sole condition that they should remain the Genevan people.* The Resident was shocked at the tone of this note ; he considered it as a solemn *protestation* against the union, and such he himself called it : he foretold that the Directory would not give it an answer and none was given. The Directory are accessible to submissions alone ; and at the very time that they receive, with so much parade, the seditious complaints of some discontented persons against the freest governments ; they are deaf to the voice of a people, who appeal to the most solemn treaties for what they hold most dear.

THE Resident accused the Committee of affected delays ; he was constantly repeating that five sixths of the nation wished to unite with France, and that the government alone was opposed to it. They offered to convene the Sovereign Council, and to cause the national will to be declared. But the Resident, who knew how far he might depend on the sentiments of the people, did not wish to give himself so formal a lie. He refused a proof so simple, so decisive, so proper to justify every thing he had done, should the national wish be expressed in favor of France. But the refusal to consult the Council, acknowledged by the constitution of Geneva as the sovereign of the state, is a complete demonstration of the falshood of the Resident's assertions. Let the Directory proclaim in Europe that the Genevans desired the union ; it will always be a sufficient answer to say, that the Directory were requested to submit this question to the decision of the Sovereign Council, and that this request was rejected.**

* In the two or three days which immediately followed the establishment of the Committee, the Resident, who had formed favorable ideas as to the result, adopted a system of mildness in the execution of the commercial prohibitions : he remitted considerable seizures made in divers places on watch-merchants, who had attempted to send out watches to be carried to the fair of Frankfort ; but as soon as he received this note, the prohibitory rigor recommenced ; he even obliged the merchants, whose goods had been restored, to bring them back, that they might be kept under sequestration until they should be confiscated.

** In the same manner many other people have been united to the French Republic : *The small republic of Mulhausen*, said one of the Journalists of the Directory

ONE is tired of following him along this crooked path, this labyrinth of falsehoods and intrigues. He published a manifesto containing thirty-two grievances, which were stated to be sufficient ground for the conquest of Geneva. These thirty-two grievances called to mind the fable of the wolf and the lamb; there was not one of them that did not cover him with ridicule and shame. The heaviest of them all was a pretended insult upon his flag, which had been spotted with ink. Notwithstanding all enquiries, it was impossible to discover the author of this weighty offence. or rather, he might have been found out with too much ease; Desportes knew him better than any one. He no doubt made a merit with the Directory of this invention, and he did not delay recurring to other calumnies to furnish himself with a pretext for employing force, after having exhausted all the means of seduction and perfidy.

HE addressed to the government a thundering note, in which he complained that his house was besieged by vile and blood-thirsty men; that they had a design upon his life; that the hirelings of England were at work with impunity and braved the authority of the magistrates; that infamous libels against France* were tolerated, and that he should be obliged to take measures to maintain the dignity of the Great Nation.

THE next day, Sunday the 15th of April, while the citizens were assembled for the purpose of continuing the powers of the Committee, several companies of French soldiers advanced to the gates of Geneva to go about the city, as had been customary, under the public faith.

to the Genevans, felt that it was her interest to break down the useless barriers which separated her from a nation no less free than herself; she requested and obtained her union with the Great Republic. I was at Mulbansen, answered an eye-witness, and I still weep over her: know, that those unfortunates, after sustaining, with the most angelic resignation, a blockade of two years; after having shared their sustenance like brothers, even to the last morsel of bread: deprived also of wood, they were seen to carry their moveables into the public square, and divide them among one another, to cook their last meal. Behold what the French call a voluntary surrender!

* The Resident thus termed the writings published by the Genevans in defence of their rights. The very day before the publication of the note, appeared a pamphlet, in which the author set forth to his fellow-citizens, the advantages of independence to their country: the Resident particularly alluded to this in his note. Another pamphlet had been published some time before, to shew that it was the interest even of the French to preserve Geneva in her present state: they were solicited, in the name of their own glory, to abandon the scheme of seizing her. *Make Geneva, added the author, a monument of your moderation; make it a cottage in the park of the Lord; see here, it will be said, a great nation, which is also a magnanimous nation; for it respects weakness. Ah! if you persist in desiring us, you will finally have us; but will you obtain Geneva? No, you will acquire only walls and beggars.* All these cries were fruitless; they would not even admit them in the French journals; these are open only to what the Directory please.

But instead of passing as usual, after they had entered at three gates, to the number of sixteen hundred men, the last battalions made themselves masters of the gates, the others spread through the public places, seized the avenues to the town-hall, and cut off the communication between the different quarters. The Resident, who had directed these proceedings, went from place to place, telling the citizens not to be alarmed, that he had discovered an atrocious plot, and that his only object was to save Geneva from the horrors of anarchy.*

At the same time he sent to the government a kind of manifesto, which would have been deemed the dictates of madness, if one had not known that this apparent rage was the only means of coloring over the violation of treaties. "Treason is at work within your walls" and you are silent, inactive! are you also beset by terrors? does it render you deaf to those cries of death which chill your fellow-citizens with fear? Monsters whom I have already denounced to you, plan in their haunts the most frightful disorders. They have laid a plot for the dissolution of the General Council on this day; the Residence was to be attacked; an attempt was to be made against my person; their outrages against the sacred colors of the Great Nation were to be recommenced," &c. &c.

GENEVA had never been more free from disorder; there was no agitation, except in the hearts of the citizens. Their country's danger had suspended all animosities. All rallied round the laws and the magistrates. So far from those *cries of death*, even the cries of grief were stifled through fear; at home every family was a prey to affliction, and the most unimportant incidents were dreaded. The pretended conspiracy is a fable too despicable to merit refutation. Surrounded by the French, without a place of refuge, without forces, without any means of escape, what could the conspirators hope, what could they do? could they for a moment rely on the success of so mad a scheme? But even the Minister himself did not speak of this absurd imposture the next day; he never prosecuted any of the pretended conspirators, who had projected such heinous crimes; he threw into the fire all the copies of this odious manifesto; he no doubt wished to obliterate the remembrance of it; but it is reduced to a

* On the entrance of the French into the city, a member of the Committee went in haste to the Resident's house, to know why the troops had been brought in; and asked him if he had not promised that none should enter while he had friendly communications with the Committee. *They trifled with me by their delays*, answered he indiscreetly, *and I will no longer be their dupe*. Here then is the true reason why the plot was invented.

It may not be useless to desire the Jacobins of other countries to observe, that the first act of authority which the French Generals exercised on their entrance into Geneva, was shutting up the two clubs of Genevan Jacobins, and placing seals upon them. Nevertheless, these were the persons who for six years had been incessantly expelling the principles and victories of the Great Nation.

certainly, that a conspiracy did exist in Geneva, and that it was headed by the Minister of France. The Directory have worn threadbare these infamous diplomatic means; they have wearied Europe with these injurious imputations, with these pretended plots. They do not even endeavor to give their stories the appearance of probability; absurdities the most gross do not make them blush. Power cloaks every thing. Yes: it cloaks every thing for a moment; but the equitable hand of posterity is advancing, and will exhibit every thing in its true light. In vain Nero casts a poniard at the feet of Agrippina's messenger, to furnish himself with a pretext for cutting his mother's throat. The senate give him thanks; Rome receives him in triumph. But in the midst of power and of honors, his throne totters and his purple is stained with infamy.

THE members of the Extraordinary Committee, called together to deliberate at this alarming period, made their way with difficulty into the town-hall, through a croud of dragoons and hussars, who had seized the post. What deliberation! what freedom! neither votes nor voters were counted. It was no more than a vain ceremony. The assembly, which when complete amounted to one hundred and thirty persons, was reduced to almost the half of that number. About thirty voted for the union; the rest were silent. Indignation, rage and despair filled every heart: nothing can be more frightful than the picture of this general consternation: the men preserved a pensive silence; the women were dissolved in tears. The churches, on this day consecrated to divine service, were filled with extraordinary crowds; the public prayers were disturbed by groans and lamentations. It was as the last protestation of weakness overborne and crushed. Some of the French officers themselves exclaimed, that they had been deceived, that they had been made the instruments of an act of flagrant injustice.

"CITIZEN Directors, Geneva is now joyful and happy, her union with the French republic was unanimously declared yesterday. A solemn deputation, preceded by a croud of citizens, who made the air resound with the cries of *Long live the Great Nation! long live the Executive Directory!* came to announce this resolution to me. I have in your name accepted the wishes of the Genevan people."

SUCH is the beginning of the letter from the Resident Desportes to the Directory. He was obliged to speak thus to please them. It is thus that Europe is informed by the public writings of the French diplomatic agents. Behold here a new instance of her fidelity, her generosity, her candor. The whole letter is a string of falsehoods; and when he attempted to palliate them to those who expressed their astonishment to him, he used reasons, which served to render the Directory still more odious.

AFTER the taking of the city, the Genevans consented to a kind of capitulation or agreement, in order to save, if possible, a few planks from their wreck. But what confidence could they repose in a treaty founded on the violation of all other treaties? in a treaty which begins with the most manifest imposture, in speaking of *the desire of the Genevan people to unite with France*. The Directory, to satisfy a mean revenge, have excluded three citizens of Geneva (Du Roveray, D'Ivernois and Mallet Dupan) from the *honor of becoming French citizens*. There is not a single Genevan, who did not desire to be exempt, like them, from this sad honor.

THIS conquest adds about thirty thousand souls to the French republic. She gains a fortified city, where a garrison will serve a double purpose; against Switzerland, which can have only a nominal liberty; and against the Department of Mont Blanc, whose union with France is not more voluntary than that of Geneva.

THIS city, once so happy and so prosperous, will soon lose her character, her manners, her religion, her commerce, her literary establishments; she will soon be only a garrison-place where we shall look for Geneva, but where, alas! we shall no more find her. The only hope remaining for her depends on a concurrence of events, which France appears to hasten by her ambition, from which her *allies* have still more to fear than her *enemies*.''

T H E E N D.

